

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A control method of providing  
2 speed information relative to a legal speed limit, the  
3 method comprising the steps of:

4           determining a first speed limit, corresponding to  
5 an area to be entered, said legal speed limit as a function  
6 of both position information and a direction of travel  
7 stored information indicating the legal speed limit at each  
8 of a plurality of different geographic locations;

9           determining a second speed limit, corresponding to  
10 a current position as a function of said position  
11 information; and

12           performing, when said first determined speed limit  
13 is lower than said second determined speed limit, a control  
14 operation as a function of said first determined speed  
15 limit.

16           ~~comparing a current speed to said legal speed~~  
17 ~~limit; and~~

18 ~~———— alerting the user if the current speed differs~~  
19 ~~from the legal speed limit by a set amount.~~

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3           obtaining said ~~current~~ position information from a  
4 global positioning device.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein  
2 said control operation is a vehicle speed control operation  
3 and where the vehicle is an automobile. ~~the set amount is a~~  
4 ~~positive amount resulting in notification when said legal~~  
5 ~~speed limit is exceeded by said positive amount.~~

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 1,  
2 further comprising: where the set amount is a negative

3 ~~amount resulting in notification when the current speed~~  
4 ~~drops below said speed limit by the set amount.~~  
5 comparing a current speed to said second speed  
6 limit; and  
7 alerting a user if a current speed differs from  
8 the second speed limit by a set amount set by the user.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 4,  
2 further comprising the step of:  
3 calculating the current speed from changes in  
4 position information obtained from the global positioning  
5 device over a period of time.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 1,  
2 further comprising:  
3 storing speed limit information in a data storage  
4 device; and  
5 periodically updating the stored speed limit  
6 information indicating the legal speed limit by downloading  
7 update information using a wireless communications device  
8 over the Internet.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~4~~ 4,  
2 further comprising the step of:  
3 storing said set amount as a speed limit offset  
4 value.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein  
2 ~~the method further involves controlling said control~~  
3 operation includes adjusting the speed of a said vehicle,  
4 ~~the method further comprising:~~  
5 ~~comparing the current speed to a speed set~~  
6 ~~relative to said legal speed limit; and~~  
7 ~~adjusting the speed of the vehicle to reduce any~~  
8 ~~different between said speed set relative to said speed~~  
9 ~~limit and said legal speed limit.~~

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein  
2 the method is further directed to generating speed trap  
3 alert notifications, the method further comprising:

4       comparing ~~current~~ position information to  
5 information on the location of known speed traps; and  
6       generating an alert signal when said comparing  
7 operation indicates that the current position is ~~approaching~~  
8 near the location of a known speed trap.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of controlling a  
2 speed of a vehicle, the method comprising:

3       obtaining vehicle position information from a  
4 global positioning system device;

5       determining, as a function of said obtained  
6 position information, a first and a second ~~accessing~~ stored  
7 ~~legal~~ speed limit, the first speed limit corresponding to an  
8 area to be entered, the second speed limit corresponding to  
9 the current position of the vehicle ~~information as a~~  
10 ~~function of position information to determine the applicable~~  
11 ~~legal speed limit;~~ and

12       modifying the speed of the vehicle as a function  
13 of at least one of the ~~applicable legal~~ determined first and  
14 second speed limit limits.

1 Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 10,  
2 ~~further comprising wherein said modifying includes reducing~~  
3 the speed of the vehicle when said first speed limit is  
4 lower than said second speed limit.

5       ~~receiving said position information from a global~~  
6 ~~positioning system device.~~

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~11~~ 10,  
2 further comprising:

3 ~~—determining a speed set relative to the applicable~~  
4 ~~legal speed limit as a function of the applicable legal~~  
5 ~~speed limit and a stored speed offset value; and~~

6 ~~wherein the step of modifying the speed of the~~  
7 ~~vehicle includes:~~  
8 ~~comparing the speed set relative to an applicable~~  
9 ~~speed limit to a current speed of the vehicle; and~~  
10 controlling the speed of the vehicle to reduce any  
11 difference between ~~the~~ a speed set by a user of said vehicle  
12 relative to the ~~applicable~~ second speed limit and ~~the~~ a  
13 current speed of the vehicle.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, further  
2 comprising the step of:  
3 determining the current speed of the vehicle from  
4 changes in position information over time.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 11,  
2 further comprising the step of:  
3 storing speed limit information; and  
4 updating the stored legal speed limit information  
5 using speed limit information received over the Internet.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~11~~ 10  
2 further comprising:  
3 accessing stored information indicating a speed at  
4 which a user has requested to receive a speed alert; and  
5 comparing the speed of the vehicle to a speed at  
6 which the user has requested a speed alert; and  
7 providing a speed alert to the user when the speed  
8 of the vehicle matches a speed at which the user has  
9 requested to receive a speed alert.

Claims 16-19 (canceled)

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): A vehicle speed control  
2 system, comprising:  
3 ~~a database of legal speed limit information;~~  
4 a global positioning device for indicating the  
5 position of the vehicle;

6           means for ~~accessing~~ determining the database of  
7 ~~speed limit information as a function of position~~  
8 ~~information provided by the global positioning device to~~  
9 ~~determine the legal speed limit that will be applicable to~~  
10 ~~the vehicle upon entry into an area in the direction of~~  
11 ~~vehicle travel based on its~~ the vehicle's current location  
12 as indicated by the global positioning device and the  
13 direction of vehicle travel; and  
14           cruise control circuitry for controlling the speed  
15 of the vehicle as a function of the determined ~~legal~~ speed  
16 limit in the area to be entered when said determined speed  
17 limit is lower than a speed limit corresponding to the  
18 current position of the vehicle.

Claims 21-23 (canceled)

1   Claim 24 (new):   The method of claim 10, wherein said  
2   vehicle is an automobile.

1   Claim 25 (new):   The vehicle control system of claim 20,  
2   wherein said vehicle is an automobile.

1   Claim 26 (new):   The vehicle speed control system of claim  
2   25, wherein said control system is integrated directly into  
3   the automobile.